



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

2006
July/August



When people encounter nature, questions pour into the nature center. We love to answer these questions, whether from an 8-year-old who wants to know what kind of bees are flying around, to the grandfather who wants to know how to get the skunk away from his house. Each question provides the opportunity to help people understand a bit more about nature. Sometimes people apologize for taking up our time, but answering their questions and helping them understand the natural world is one of our most important jobs. Sometimes we don't know the answer to the question and have to do a little research. Naturalists know a lot about many things, but they don't know everything about all. So, if you have a question about something in nature, don't hesitate to drop in or call. We'll be happy to talk with you and answer your question or point you in the right direction. Are you curious about the most common questions we get at Runge?

Alane Dubbert, Naturalist

Here are the Top 10!

1. Which Conservation Areas allow hunting/fishing in my county?
2. What are those bees around the building?
3. Can you identify this plant/animal?
4. Can we go in the fire tower?
5. How can I take care of the abandoned baby animal I found?
6. Do you rehab animals?
7. Is that turtle alive? Are all your animals alive?
8. Can I buy my permits here?
9. How can I stop deer from eating all my plants?
10. How big is your fish aquarium?

Read through the newsletter for the answers, and keep those questions coming!



Volunteer News



MDC Volunteer Reaches Impressive Milestone of Service

Gail Oehrke, Volunteer Naturalist at Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City, has reached the 5,000-hour milestone. Gail has spent a lifetime enriching the lives of other people. His 35-year career as an educator included serving as elementary principal for 20 years in Owensville. After retiring, Gail joined the volunteer program at Runge in 1993, the year the nature center opened. Gail continues to enrich people's lives by helping with Runge's special events, off-site exhibits, and Conservation Kids' Club. Thank you, Gail. We appreciate your generosity!

Answers to "And The Answer Is..."

1. We have maps to the conservation areas in the state, and can check which activities are permitted at each site. All you have to do is ask! Conservation maps are also available at www.missouriconservation.org
2. Carpenter Bees—they burrow into the wood to lay their eggs. They are big, but not aggressive.

Lobby Exhibits

Wooden Sculptures

In July and August, Runge will feature a local artist from Warrensburg, Mr. Jerry Miller. Jerry retired from CMSU after 30 years as an art education professor. His favorite past time is to transform wood into magnificent sculptures. His latest creation is the River Rock series, which was inspired from small, gray stones naturally arranged in a creek bed. Each piece of work takes him more than 40 hours to complete from sketching and sawing to sanding. Come to Runge and gaze at Jerry's creative works of wood.

Digital Photography

The Exploration, Enrichment, and Research class from the Jefferson City Public Schools studies digital photography as part of their curriculum. Their photographs will be on display at Runge during July and August. The students hope the display will encourage other young photographers to get out in nature and see how much fun it is to take cool photos here in Missouri.

Runge Conservation Nature Center

is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the nature center entrance on the left. The nature center is open Monday through Saturday 8AM to 5PM and Noon to 5PM on Sundays. No admission fee. 573/526-5544
www.missouriconservation.org



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required.

Knot Tying

Tuesday, July 18 – 6:30-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

"I'm all tied up in knots about this program."

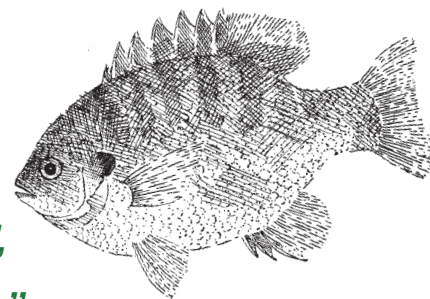
It is summer-time to be **NAUGHTY**. No, no, no, **KNOTTY**. Do you know how to tie knots—more than your tennis shoes? Well, I'm learning and you can, too. During this program, you'll find out how to tie knots that are important to many outdoor adventures. You'll skip away without a **HITCH**!

Wishin' I were Fishin'

Tuesday, August 15 – 6:30-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

***"I'll get a line
and you get a pole,
and we'll go fishin'
in the crawfish hole."***



The crawfish hole is Binder Lake – not quite a **hole**, but instead a **whole** lake. We'll learn how to bait a hook, cast a line, and fish the lake's shoreline. Bring your own gear if you have it, but we will provide rods and bait as well.

Directions to Binder: From Capital Mall take Highway 50 west to Apache Flats exit. Pass House of Bargains and turn right on Binder Lake Road. The road will come to a "T" at Rainbow Drive—turn left on Rainbow Drive. You'll pass by the end of the lake on your right side. Turn right after the lake at the gate and this road winds around until you reach the bait shop.

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, July 18th at 6:30PM**. **There will not be a Little Acorns program during the August meeting.** No reservations required.



Mark S. Raithel '92

Habitat Happenings



Journaling With

Lewis & Clark

A Discovery of Outdoor Missouri

Celebrate the return of Lewis and Clark with this new and final statewide journaling activity. Participation runs from June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007.

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Permit No. 274

Habitat Happenings
Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



July Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on July 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

8 Saturday

Family Fishing

Time: 10:00AM-Noon

Ages: All (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Hang up your “Gone Fishing” sign and join us for some good old-fashion fishing! We’ll provide rods, tackle, and bait (or bring your own.) This is catch-and-release fishing, and folks ages 16-65 will need a current Missouri fishing license. Reservations required.

14 Friday

Creek Walk

Time: 1:00-2:00PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Let’s take a walk in the creek that runs through Runge. You never know what we will find – rocks, minnows, crayfish, and hopefully water! Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get wet. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required.

15 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM–5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we’ll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri’s choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Meramec State Park has more caves than any other park in the nation—forty-five to be exact. We’ll start out with blufftop views of the Meramec River on the **Bluff View Trail** (1.5 miles, ***). After lunch, we’ll continue with a 90-minute, Naturalist-led tour of **Fisher Cave**, the park’s finest (.66 mile, ***.) Natural features on the **Natural Wonders Trail** (1.3 miles, **) include collapsed cave passageways, a glade, wet meadow, beaver pond, and 2 caves. Bring a jacket and \$3.00 for the cave tour. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Saturday

Story Tree

Time: 11:00AM-Noon

Ages: 4-11 years (accompanied by an adult.)

What is that bug? How long do snakes get? Curious children have countless questions about nature, and story books are marvelous places to discover answers. Pause at our Story Tree and explore delightful books. Girls and boys choose titles from the branches and take pleasure in the story as it’s read. Then we will chat about our discoveries or share an activity. Dress for the weather since we may read outdoors. No reservations required.

Habitat Happenings

20 Thursday

Nature’s Needlers

Time: 10:30AM–Noon and 6:00–7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

Our July topic focuses on spring and early summer wildflowers found in a prairie habitat. Please bring with you a basic sewing kit, cutting implements, a towel or 20” square of muslin, pins, and pieces of fabric suitable for the subject. Reservations required.

20 Thursday

Hunter Education Course

Time: 6:00-9:00PM

Ages: 11 years and older

This 10-hour certification course is required for every hunter born after January 1, 1967. **Continues on Friday, July 21, 6:00-10:00PM, and concludes on Saturday, July 22, 8:00AM-Noon.** Reservations required.

26 Wednesday

Runge Midweek Trekkers

Time: 8:00AM–3:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Take a hike! Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide more opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Like the Runge Hiking Club, Midweek Trekkers is for beginner and experienced hikers alike. Each month, we’ll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri’s choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Situated where the main east-west land route intersected the Missouri River, **Arrow Rock** was an early crossroads of all sorts. The Osage Trace, Boone’s Lick Trail, and the Sante Fe Trail all crossed here. In 1808, William Clark wrote in his journal that Arrow Rock was “a handsome Spot for a Town.” We’ll hike the **Pierre A Fleche Trail** (1.5 miles, ***), which begins at the **Arrow Rock State Historic Site** visitor center. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

28 Friday

Beginning Archery

Time: 10:00AM-Noon **OR** 1:00-3:00pm

Ages: 6 years and older (Children 6-13 years must be accompanied by an adult.)

With a little practice, you can hit the target. Join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We’ll provide the equipment, instruction, and targets. Make a point to be here! Reservations required.

Fish Feeding

We’re hungry and we don’t mind you watching us eat.

Saturday, July 1 – 3:00PM
Wednesday, July 19 – 2:00PM
Friday, July 28 – 2:00PM

No reservations required.

For the little ones

Exciting and age appropriate opportunities to connect with nature are presented each month for the youngest among us!

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. Programs are limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, July 15 – 10:00AM

Friday, July 28 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Children ages 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Friday, July 7 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, July 19 – 1:00PM

Friday, July 21 – 10:00AM

Saturday, July 22 – 10:00AM

Snake Sense

It only makes sense to be curious about an animal that “smells” with its tongue. We will investigate the five senses of the snake this month. Sssee you there! Reservations required.

Answers to “**And The Answer Is...**”

3. We identify all kinds of native plants and animals of Missouri.
4. You can walk up the steps to the fire tower whenever the building is open and weather permits. You can ask at the front desk if there is someone available who can take you into the cab. The steps are locked in inclement weather.
5. Please do not attempt to take care of baby animals. They have a higher chance of survival without human intervention.

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers.

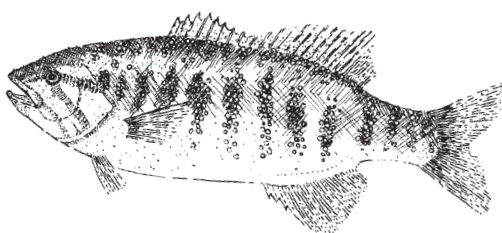
*Easiest trail-flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)

**Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)

***Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots

****Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

*****Most difficult-significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks



August Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on August 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

8 Tuesday

Connor's Cave Excursion

Time: 1:00-3:00PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Explore the world under your feet! Meet us at Devil's Icebox parking lot in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park which is located off of Highway 163 near Columbia. Bring sturdy shoes or boots and a flashlight. We will provide gloves and hard hats. This cave is beginner level but you will be walking through water so plan on getting your feet wet. **Note:** Cave ethics and safety will be discussed for the first 30-minutes of the program to ensure a safe and fun trip! Reservations required.

11 Friday

Family Fishing

Time: 10:00AM-Noon

Ages: All (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Hang up your "Gone Fishing" sign and join us for some good old-fashion fishing! We'll provide rods, tackle, and bait (or bring your own.) This is catch-and-release fishing, and folks ages 16-65 will need a current Missouri fishing license. Reservations required.

17 Thursday

Nature's Needlers

Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

August brings us back to the prairie for late summer plants and wildflowers. Please bring with you a basic sewing kit, cutting implements, a towel or 20" square of muslin, pins, and pieces of fabric suitable for the subject. Reservations required.

19 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

One of the nation's most spectacular caves, Onondaga is known for the abundance and quality of its speleothems (calcite deposits.) Come with us to **Onondaga Cave State Park**. We'll start with hike the **Deer Run Trail** (2.5 miles, ***), where we'll hike to glades, ancient cedar trees, and panoramic overlooks of forested hills and the winding Meramec River. After lunch, we'll go on a Naturalist-led tour of **Onondaga Cave** (1 mile, **). Bring your lunch, water, \$5.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Answers to "**And The Answer Is...**"

6. We do not rehab wild animals at the nature center. Rehabilitation requires a permit and specialized training.

7. The alligator snapping turtle is alive. Most of our animals are alive, though we do have several mounts of mammals and birds.

8. Yes, you can purchase all your hunting and fishing permits at Runge.

19 Saturday

Story Tree

Time: 11:00AM-Noon

Ages: 4-11 years (accompanied by an adult.)

What is that bug? How long do snakes get? Curious children have countless questions about nature, and story books are marvelous places to discover answers. Pause at our Story Tree and explore delightful books. Girls and boys choose titles from the branches and take pleasure in the story as it's read. Then we will chat about our discoveries or share an activity. Dress for the weather since we may read outdoors. No reservations required.

24 Thursday

Hunter Education Course

Time: 6:00-9:00PM

Ages: 11 years and older

This 10-hour certification course is required for every hunter born after January 1, 1967. **Continues on Friday, August 25, 6:00-10:00PM, and concludes on Saturday, August 26, 8:00AM-Noon.** Reservations required. *Reservations will be accepted starting on July 1st.*

30 Wednesday

Runge Midweek Trekkers

Time: 8:00AM-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

There's a lot to see at 17,203-acre **Lake of the Ozarks State Park**, Missouri's largest. Join us as we visit the southern, less-used corner of the park and explore some of its gems. We'll begin with a hike through a savanna, glade, fen, and over two swinging bridges, all on the **Coakley Hollow Trail** (1 mile.) After lunch, we'll have a Naturalist-led tour on an underground hike at **Ozark Caverns** (0.5 mile.) Bring your lunch, water, \$3.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Adventure Packs are BACK!



Runge Adventure Packs are available once again for check-out at the front desk. They have some new items to help you explore our trails. These packs are available for use everyday on a first-come, first-serve basis, so stop by today to try one out.

For the little ones

Exciting and age appropriate opportunities to connect with nature are presented each month for the youngest among us!

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. Programs are limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Thursday, August 10 – 10:00AM

Saturday, August 12 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, August 15 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Children ages 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, August 5 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, August 8 – 10:00AM

Friday, August 18 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, August 29 – 10:00AM

The Hungry Hummingbird

Young birds have much to learn about finding food—what it looks like and where to find it! Using shapes and colors we will figure out what hummingbirds like to eat and where they find it. Reservations required.

Answers to "**And The Answer Is...**"

9. To protect our plants at Runge, we sprinkle a protein-rich mixture of milk and eggs onto the plants every 10 days or after it rains.

10. The large fish aquarium holds 3,400 gallons of water. It is home to over twenty native fish.

Nature Shop News

July/August featured item

20% OFF

It's here!

Conservation Atlas

The 240-page book has been updated to include new conservation areas and now has color county maps.

Discounted Price: \$15.20 plus tax

Heritage card discount does not apply.



Fish Feeding

We're hungry and we don't mind you watching us eat.

Saturday, August 12 – 3:00PM

Wednesday, August 16 – 2:00PM

No reservations required.